

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the abstract using the following replacement paragraph:

A¹

The present invention provides a method for encoding messages. The method includes identifying at least a first plurality of messages indicative of a corresponding first plurality of data transmission rates and a second plurality of messages indicative of a corresponding second plurality of data transmission rates based on a prior transmitted message, where the first and second pluralities of messages are unequal. The method also includes transmitting a message from one of at least the first and second pluralities of messages.